

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An area light source apparatus comprising:

a light source;

a substantially rectangular area light conversion member to convert light from said light source into area light projected to a front surface of said area light conversion member, one side of said area light conversion member having an incident light surface and being provided ~~opposite~~ adjacent to said light source;

a reflector covering said light source to reflect and project[[s]] the light from said light source to said one side of said area light conversion member, the reflector including an upper edge portion[[s]] and a lower edge portion, the upper and lower edge portions of said reflector being provided to interpose said one side of said area light conversion member;

a frame faced to support the other side of said area light conversion member opposite to said one side of said area light conversion member through a gap; and

suppression means provided between said area light conversion member and said frame and adjacent to said other side of said area light conversion member for suppressing said area light conversion member to shift toward said light source and front surface of said area light conversion member,

wherein a width formed by a front edge of the upper edge portion and the incident light surface of said one side of said area light conversion member interposed between said upper and lower edge portions of said reflector, is larger than said gap defined between said frame and said other side of said area light conversion member.

Claim 2 (Original): An area light source apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said suppressing means is an adhesive tape.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An area light source apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising optical sheet provided on an opposite surface to said front surface, wherein said optical sheet together with said area light conversion member is interposed between said upper and lower edge portions of said reflector.

Claim 4 (Original): An area light source apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said area light conversion member is attached to said frame through said optical sheet.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An area light source apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said width of said one side of said area light conversion member interposed between said upper and lower edge portions of said reflector is larger than said gap defined between said frame and said other side of said area light conversion member plus a shrink quantity caused by environmental temperature change from 25 °C. to -20 °C.

Claim 6 (Original): An area light source apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said area light conversion member includes a prism provided on a side of a rear surface opposite to said front surface.

Claim 7 (Original): An area light source apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said suppressing means changes adhesiveness thereof depending on environmental temperatures.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An area light source apparatus according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

a holder to support both upper and lower edge portions of said light source, wherein  
said one side of said area light conversion member is disposed to contact with said holder.